

Note from the Editors

This 2022 summer issue of *American Studies* marks several transitions. We would like to alert you to some farewells, announce news of an exciting transition in editorial operations, and share some very warm welcomes and introductions to our new team.

We say farewell and goodbye to three valued colleagues: Randal M. Jelks, who co-edited the journal from 2009-2022; Elizabeth Wilhelm, who executed the myriad responsibilities of the managing editor position for the past five years (2017-2022), and who is finalizing her dissertation in the department of American Studies at KU—"Realizing Reformation: The Building of the American Correctional Association and the Carceral State"—as we write this Note; and media assistant Ashley Aranda, whose skills upped our blog and design game from 2020-2022. We wish these valued editorial team members all the best with their future endeavors and thank them for their dedication and brilliance which will have a lasting impact on the journal.

American Studies has been housed at University of Kansas for over 60 years. The journal undergoes an external review every five years, and goes up for bid every 10 years. We are grateful to the College of Liberal Arts and Humanities for the generous support of these many decades that has enabled us to submit a competitive bid and sustain the journal at KU. However, this time around, when we began putting our bid together, we learned what other academic journal and book editors have been encountering: budget support for academic publishing has greatly diminished since the start of the pandemic in 2020. The College and

the Department of American Studies could continue to support a shared course release for the co-editors and office space, and the College agreed to continue media and layout, but other expenses, such as the funding for our graduate positions of Assistant Editor and Managing Editor and editor stipends, were no longer feasible.

MAASA's bidding process for the journal emphasizes institutional support for these important graduate student positions, and rightly so--these make it possible to produce an ambitious quarterly journal of high quality, and they also provide valuable training in the world of academic, peer-reviewed publishing. So we continued knocking on doors throughout the year, seeking other entities on campus that might be able to pick up some of what had previously been funded by the College. But every unit had been hit hard by budget cuts. When things were looking particularly bleak, we reached out to MAASA to inquire if there were other potential bidders lined up. We wanted to make sure *AMSJ* would not be left in the lurch.

Another university had plans to submit a bid to house *AMSJ*: University of Minnesota. The KU editorial team reached out to Bianet Castellanos and Elliot Powell at UMN to see if we could offer any assistance and learned that they, too, were also struggling to produce a viable bid. The economics of research support had become increasingly limited by austerity measures at both of our institutions, and beyond. At the same time, the demands of peer-review articles for tenure and promotion are as high as ever. The need for interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journals that nurture scholarship in transnational American studies, ethnic studies, Indigenous studies, disability studies, and gender and sexuality studies is intensified at a time when scholars in these fields are experiencing reduced opportunities for research funding, academic employment, and job security. We decided to explore the potential for collaboration through a joint bid.

Over a series of Zoom meetings (which we had all gotten quite good at), we began a series of conversations in which our cross-institutional relationship grew in unexpected ways. We began as competitors seeking to edit the journal for the next ten years, yet each attempt was stymied by our shared inability to secure 10-year funding commitments to edit a top-tier journal. Immediately, we delighted one another with discovering shared visions and values. For one, we all preferred to greet scarcity with abundance. While our proposal for a cross-institutional joint editing pilot project did not yield 10-year commitments, it did open doors for commitments from our two institutions that allow us to share costs across a 3-year period that we plan to build into a longer collaboration. For this initial 3-year period, there will be a senior book review editor, one graduate student position and one undergraduate position at UMN. We are already preparing a proposal for a subsequent 3-year period, in which there will be one journal editor, one graduate student position, and one undergraduate position at UMN and one journal editor, one graduate student position and one undergraduate position at KU, and a senior book review editor at one of our institutions. And so forth.

We will keep you posted on these developments and welcome your feedback. Be assured that the joint editorial team at UMN and KU looks forward to working together to reimagine the future of editorships during times of economic uncertainty for publishing venues like *American Studies*. As stated in our successful joint proposal to MAASA, "We seek to foster collaborations that harness the expertise and strengths of our institutions, departments, faculty, staff, and students," while also ensuring the journal's future as a needed platform for conversations in American studies. With this transition, *AMSJ* will continue to engage what we've been calling the geographies of global midwests, to center the Midwest as a vibrant region that is a locus of creative intellectual production and is at the center of social transformation and cultural politics that speak to local, national, and international audiences. Through these collaborations, we aim to promote a new model for multi-campus journal editorship.

We would like to thank the formative Bianet Castellanos in particular, who, as chair of American Studies at UMN, brought to our collaborative discussions creativity and vision at all turns. We're grateful for her commitments to the field and to the journal.

For the new funding that underwrites this exciting new phase of publishing *AMSJ*, we are thankful to the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota; the Department of American Studies, University of Minnesota; the Center for Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender and Sexuality Studies (RIDGS); University of Minnesota; and to the University of Kansas Center for Research (KUCR).

And now, for our welcomes!

David Karjanen joins *AMSJ* as the journal's inaugural Senior Book Review Editor. He is associate professor and university distinguished teaching professor of American Studies at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on comparative political economy, migration, public policy, and public health, particularly in the US and the US-Mexico border. He was a Fulbright Scholar (Slovakia) and is an external research associate at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at UCSD.

Demiliza Saramosing, a stellar PhD candidate in the Department of American Studies, University of Minnesota, joins as Book Review Editorial Assistant. Demiliza Sagaral Saramosing is an American Studies Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. She holds UMN graduate minors in Race, Indigeneity, Disability, Gender Studies (RIDGS) and American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIIS). She is currently working on her dissertation project entitled, "Messin' Wid Paradise: Kalihi Youth Mapping Oceanic Futures in the City with No Pity." This project explores the processes of identity formation and the politics of representation among poor and working-class Oceanic youth from varied social, historical, and political backgrounds growing up in the urbanized inner-city of Kalihi, Hawai'i. Demiliza is currently the co-editor of the forthcoming special issue (Fall 2022) entitled, "Towards an Oceanic Filipinx Studies," in the *Alon Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies*.

We welcome our new co-editor, Chris Perreira, who joined the team in 2020 as associate editor and editor of the *Dialogues* Blog, and now looks forward to his new role. Sherrie is writing this paragraph as she is sure that it would be awkward for Chris to write, but she wants him to know how very excited she is to co-edit with him. And she wants everyone to know that Chris researches and teaches in the areas of culture, race, medicine, and science; Latinx and Chicanx studies; intersections between environmental racism/justice and speculative fiction, art, and thought; and histories and logics of carceral geographies. Chris joined the journal while an assistant professor in American Studies at University of Kansas. He is now an associate professor of Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego. We are grateful to MAASA for bending the "mid-America" regional rules so that *AMSJ* may benefit from his editorial leadership, and we are grateful to UCSD Ethnic Studies for the support that enables the same.

Taking over for Chris as Associate Editor and Editor of the *Dialogues* Blog is Nishani Frazier. Welcome, Nishani! Dr. Frazier is associate professor of American Studies and History at University of Kansas. Prior to University of Kansas, she held positions as Associate Curator of African American History and Archives at Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), Assistant to the Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Archives at the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and personal assistant for Dr. John Hope Franklin before and during his tenure as chair of President Bill Clinton's advisory board on "One America." Her research interests include 1960s freedom movements, oral history, food, digital humanities, and black economic development. Nishani's book, *Harambee City: The Congress of Racial Equality in Cleveland and the Rise of Black Power Populism*, was released with an accompanying website also titled Harambee City. Dr. Frazier's essay, "Black Blockchain: The Future of Black Studies and Blockchain," reflects on the importance of recently departed *Star Trek* television star Nichelle Nichols, Afro-futurism, and blockchain technologies. We are thrilled to have it as the lead article for this issue.

Maddie Pieropan is *AMSJ*'s newest media assistant and currently a third year American Studies student attending the University of Kansas. Their research interests include explorations of the intersections between digital humanities, neoliberalism, and settler colonialism.

Chris Perreira, Editor and Sherrie Tucker, Editor